

INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY  
VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL

ORDER RECORDED UNDER CODE  
OF VIRGINIA SECTION 45.1-361.26

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD

APPLICANT: **Equitable Production Company**

VIRGINIA GAS AND  
OIL BOARD  
VGOB DOCKET NO.:  
**89-0126-0009-52**

RELIEF SOUGHT:

MODIFICATION OF THE OGCB NORA GAS  
FIELD RULES ORDER, ENTERED MARCH 26,  
1989, AS AMENDED, TO ALLOW MORE THAN  
ONE COALBED GAS WELL TO BE DRILLED IN  
THE UNITS IDENTIFIED ON EXHIBIT "A" HERETO

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

DRILLING UNITS: **BD-72** (VC-2596), **BE-71** (VC-2587),  
**BE-72** (VC-2012), **BE-74** (VC-2277); **BF-71** (VC-2392).  
LOCATED IN **DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**;  
SEE ANNEXED EXHIBIT "**H2**".

**REPORT OF THE BOARD**  
**FINDINGS AND ORDER**

1. Hearing Date and Place: This matter came on for hearing before the Virginia Gas and Oil Board (hereinafter "Board") at 9:00 a.m. on **June 16, 2009** at the Conference Center at the Russell County Office Facility, Lebanon, Virginia.

2. Appearances: **James E. Kaiser of Wilhoit and Kaiser**, appeared for the Applicant; and Sharon B. Pigeon, Assistant Attorney General was present to advise the Board.

3. Jurisdiction and Notice: Pursuant to Va. Code §§45.1-361.1 et seq., as amended, the Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the subject matter. Based upon the evidence presented by the Applicant, the Board also finds that the Applicant has (1) exercised due diligence in conducting a meaningful search of reasonably available sources to determine the identity and whereabouts of each gas and oil owner, coal owner,

or mineral owner, or in the case of conflicting claims to the ownership of the coalbed methane gas, each person identified by Applicant as a potential owner of the coalbed methane gas underlying the area described at paragraph 7.h below and in **Exhibit "B"** attached hereto; and (2) has given notice to all parties so identified (hereinafter sometimes "person(s)" whether referring to individuals, corporation, partnerships, associations, companies, businesses, trusts, joint ventures or other legal entities) and entitled by §§ 45.1-361.19 and 45.1-361.20, Virginia Code, as amended, to notice of the Application, and (3) that the persons listed in the Notice of Hearing are the persons so identified by the Applicant. Further, the Board has caused notice of this hearing to be published as required by § 45.1-361.19.B., Virginia Code, as amended. Whereupon, the Board hereby finds that the notices given satisfy all statutory requirements, Board rule requirements and the minimum standards of State due process.

4. Amendments and Dismissals: None.

5. Relief Requested: (1) Modification of the Nora Gas Field Rules to allow more than one coalbed methane gas well to be drilled within each of the Nora Field Drilling Units identified above and in **Exhibit "H2"** attached hereto; and (2) for an administrative order providing that additional well permits may be issued in the Nora Field after the Application is filed and while it is pending.

6. Relief Granted: Available data and the evidence adduced at the hearing support Applicant's position that the production from the pool underlying the Nora Coal Bed Gas Field Drilling Units in question would be enhanced and benefit from in-field drilling; accordingly,

a. With regard to the Drilling Units described above and in **Exhibit "H2"** hereto, the Nora Coal Bed Gas Field Rules Order, OCGB order entered of March 26, 1989, is hereby amended to allow the Board's Designated Unit Operator in Drilling Units pooled by Board Order and the Well Operator/Permittee in voluntary Drilling Units to drill a total of two (2) wells, said total to include any previously permitted well(s), within the units affected by the Application and this Order;

b. In the event that an additional coalbed methane gas well(s) permitted and drilled after the entry of this order is located within the drilling window(s) of a Nora Coal Bed Gas Field Drilling Unit affected by this order, the production therefrom shall be solely attributed to and allocated to the Nora Drilling Unit within which the wells are located.

c. In the event a second well is proposed that is to be located outside the drilling window of any Nora Unit affected by this order and a permit application is submitted to the Division of Gas and Oil seeking such location exception, the Inspector shall assess the permit as follows:

(i) If a 58 acre square with the proposed well at its center lies entirely within Nora Drilling Units which are voluntary in nature and are not subject to existing pooling order, the Inspector may grant or deny the location exception on a case-by-case basis according to standard procedures and provisions of the Nora Order which allow wells to be drilled outside the drilling windows; or

(ii) If a 58 acre square with the proposed well at its center lies entirely or partially within any Nora Drilling Unit(s) which is subject to existing pooling orders, the Inspector shall refer the permit application to the Board for its recommendations concerning correlative rights considerations, modification of pooling orders, and escrow provisions. Alternatively, the Unit Operator may present a pooling proposal directly to the Board prior to filing a permit application. No permit under this paragraph (ii) shall be issued until the Board has acted on the matter.

7. Special Findings:

- a. Applicant's proposed field rule modification is not an unreasonable or arbitrary exercise of the owner's right to explore for or produce gas;
- b. The Applicant's proposal would not unreasonably interfere with the present or future mining of coal or other minerals;
- c. The acreage to be embraced in the Drilling Units affected by and/or created by this Modification Order shall be as set forth above and in **Exhibit "H2"** attached hereto.
- d. The formations subject to this Modification Order are described in the OGCB Order entered March 26, 1989, as amended.
- e. The boundaries of the Drilling Units are the same as heretofore established by the OGCB Order entered March 26, 1989, as amended.
- f. Unit Operator's production simulations indicate that drilling of an additional well in each Unit could facilitate the recovery of an additional 250,000 MCF of gas per Unit within ten (10) years of drilling.
- g. The boundaries of any Drilling Units created subsequent to this Modification Order shall be according to paragraph 6.c.ii. above and as defined by Board action specific to individual units.
- h. The acreage subject to this Modification Order is depicted in **Exhibit "H2"** attached hereto:

i. Having considered the evidence presented, the Board found no reason to establish any allowable production rates for the wells contemplated by this Modification Order;

j. Except as herein specifically modified, the proposed Drilling Units in **Exhibit "H2"** shall be developed and produced in compliance with the OGCB Order entered on March 26, 1989 regarding the Nora Gas Field Rules, as amended.

k. This Modification Order shall be effective as of the date of the hearing, to wit: **June 16, 2009.**

8. Conclusion: The relief granted hereby will assist in enhancing production from existing wells, will assist in more efficiently recovering coalbed methane gas from the area in question, prevent waste by more effectively extracting the resource, and will continue to protect the correlative rights of all owners and claimants. Therefore, the relief and all terms and provisions set forth above be and are hereby granted and IT IS SO ORDERED.

9. Effective Date: **June 16, 2009.**

DONE AND EXECUTED this 28 day of Jan,  
2014, by a majority of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board.

Bradley C. Lambert  
Bradley Lambert, Chairman

DONE AND EXECUTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of JAN,  
2014, by a majority of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board.

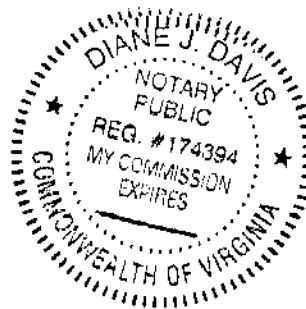
Rick Cooper  
Rick Cooper  
Principal Executive to the Staff  
Virginia Gas and Oil Board

STATE OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF RUSSELL:

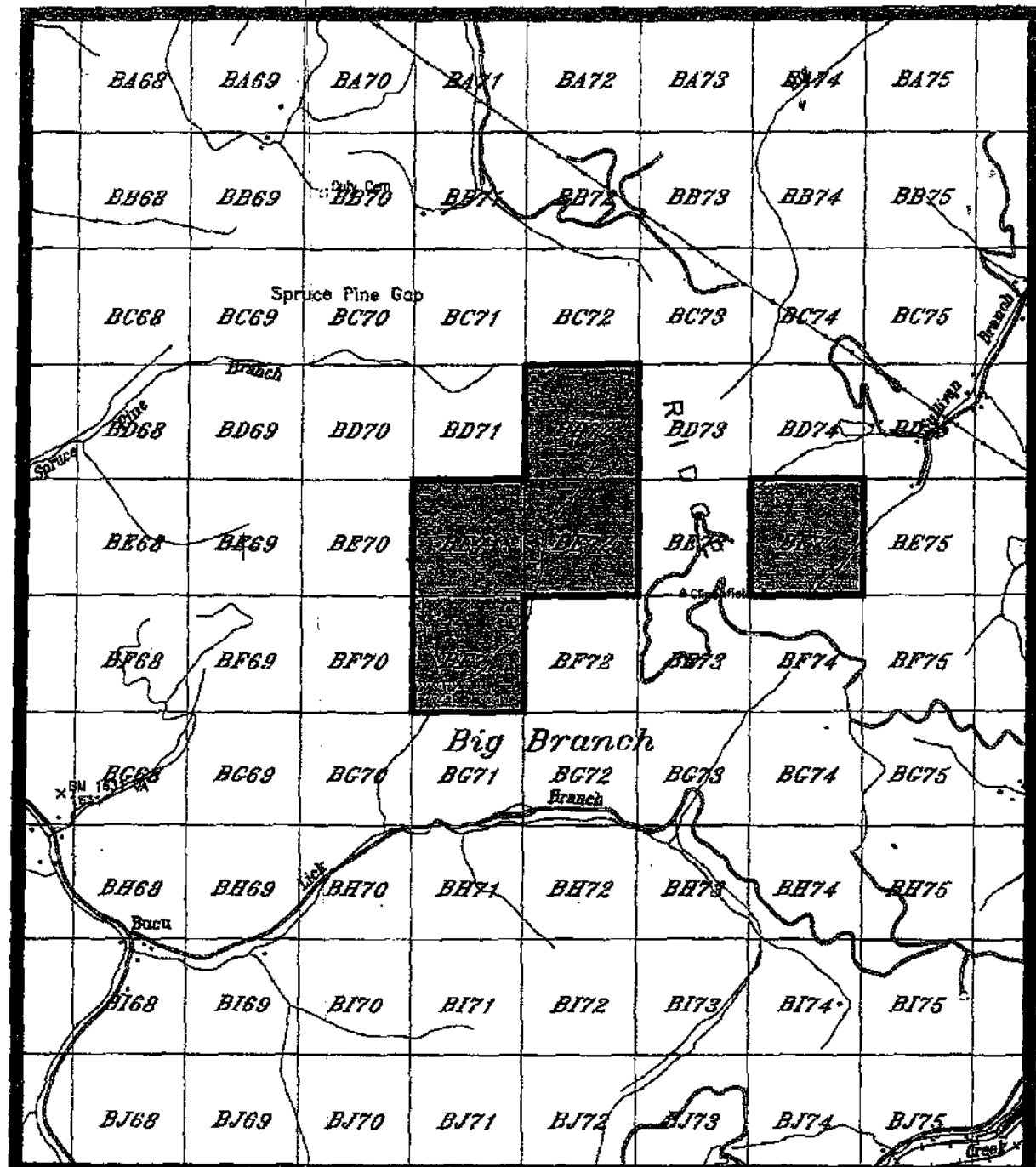
Acknowledged this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 201<sup>4</sup>~~5~~,  
personally before me a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, appeared  
Bradley Lambert, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is Chairman of the  
Virginia Gas and Oil Board and Rick Cooper being duly sworn did depose and say that  
he is Principal Executive to the Staff of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, that they  
executed same and were authorized to do so.

Diane J. Davis  
Diane J. Davis

My Commission Expires September 30, 2017



82209 112 00  
DB 514 PG252



**EXHIBIT A**  
**Big Branch**  
**INCREASED DENSITY DRILLING, NORA FIELD**

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

Date: April 3, 2009

DB 514 P0253  
S2S09 #12 80

INSTRUMENT #140000218  
RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF  
DICKENSON ON  
FEBRUARY 21, 2014 AT 09:00AM

RICHARD W. EDWARDS, CLERK  
RECORDED BY: CJB